

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP TGEN PE
SUBJ: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 118666

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GLOBAL ISSUES WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BE OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH PERU IN THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE ARE CURRENT ISSUES WHICH WILL BE OF DECLINING IMPORTANCE.

(A) NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY: PERU IS CURRENTLY CONSTRUCTING ITS FIRST NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR WITH ASSISTANCE FROM ARGENTINA. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN AND WILL BE INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN THE OVERSIGHT OF MATERIALS COVERED BY SAFEGUARD AGREEMENTS.

(B) ENERGY TECHNOLOGY: PERU HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE PILOT SITES FOR A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY JOINT PROJECT TO MEASURE AND DEVELOP ALTERNATE ENERGY RESOURCES.

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(C) OCEANS: PERU HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST ZEALOUS PROponents OF 200 MILE SOVEREIGNTY. PERU'S COASTAL WATERS ARE ONE OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST TRADITIONAL FISHERIES. ISSUES OVER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE.

(D) POPULATION: POPULATION INCREASE WILL BECOME MORE

CRITICAL AS PERU'S LIMITS OF ARABLE LAND ARE REACHED AND INCREASED SAVINGS ARE REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENTAL INVESTMENT.

(E) COMMUNICATIONS/SPACE TECHNOLOGY: PERU IS SEEKING TO EXPAND THE USE OF SATELLITES FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND REMOTE SENSING. THE GOP HAS REQUESTED THAT PERU BE CONSIDERED AS THE LOCATION OF A REGIONAL LANDSAT CENTER. OTHER REGIONAL PROPOSALS INVOLVE THE ANDEAN PACT WHICH HAS HEADQUARTERS IN LIMA.

(F) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: RESTORATION OF A HOSPITABLE CLIMATE FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT WILL BRING THIS ISSUE TO THE FORE. PERU'S LATITUDE WILL BE GOVERNED BY MEMBERSHIP IN THE ANDEAN PACT WHICH HAS DETAILED RULES ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

(G) ARMS TECHNOLOGY AND DISARMAMENT: PERU SEES ITSELF SURROUNDED BY HISTORIC ENEMIES WHO WOULD BE QUICK TO JOINTLY EXPLOIT ANY OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES. RECENT GOP EFFORTS TO MEET THIS SITUATION HAVE MADE PERU THE CATALYST FOR A DEVELOPING REGIONAL ARMS RACE WHOSE COST IS ONLY BEGINNING TO BE PERCEIVED.

(H) NARCOTICS INFORMATION SYSTEMS: PERU IS ONE OF THE PRIME SOURCES OF COCA AND THE USG IS GEARING UP AN EXTENSIVE JOINT INTERDICTION PROGRAM. THERE WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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INCREASING INTEREST IN REGIONAL COORDINATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

(I) HEALTH/NUTRITION: AID HAS VARIOUS ONGOING PROJECTS IN THIS AREA INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL POTABLE WATER SYSTEMS, WHICH MAY BE EXPANDED. THE ANDEAN PACT IS NOW UNDERTAKING A PILOT PROJECT TO DEVELOP LOCAL HIGH PROTEIN SUPPLEMENTS TO REPLACE IMPORTED PROTEIN SOURCES.

2. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MATTERS ARE PRESENTLY THE ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY OF ONE OFFICER IN THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION. HE IS BACKED UP BY THE REGIONAL SCIENCE ATTACHE IN BUENOS AIRES THROUGH OCCASIONAL VISITS HERE. NO SEPARATE SECRETARIAL SUPPORT IS REQUIRED. WE BELIEVE THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL REMAIN ADEQUATE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. ALTHOUGH THE ISSUES LISTED ABOVE ARE EXTENSIVE, THEIR IMPACT ON THE SCIENCE OFFICER IS LIMITED BY THE FACT THAT IN MOST CASES WORKING-LEVEL EXPERTISE AND ACCESS TO PERUVIAN CONTACTS IS PROVIDED BY OTHER AGENCIES. THE AID MISSION HAS A POPULATION OFFICER ON ITS STAFF AS WELL AS ENGINEERS FAMILIAR WITH THE LANDSAT PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS PROVIDING ITS OWN TEAM TO INITIATE THE

ALTERNATE ENERGY PROJECT AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO HANDLE MUCH OF THE FOLLOW-UP AS A RESULT OF CONTACTS MADE HERE. BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND DEA ARE PROVIDING EXTENSIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROGRAM. IN MARINE RESEARCH THE PERUVIAN MARINE INSTITUTE (IMARPE) HAS A CONTINUING HISTORY OF CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE U.S. INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS WOODS HOLE.

3. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT NOW RECOMMEND ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL OFFICERS OR SECRETARIES ON THE BASIS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FUTURE RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS COULD AND SHOULD BE ENHANCED BY ADDING BRIEFINGS AND SHORT-TERM TRAINING TO THEIR CONSULTATION SCHEDULE.

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Message Attributes

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